GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2464
ANSWERED ON:04.12.2007
AMENDMENT OF COASTAL REGULATION ACT
Manoj Dr. K.S.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the amendments to Coastal Regulation Act has created great hardships to the coastal folks;

(b) if so, whether the Government has appointed a committee headed by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan to suggest modifications;

(c) if so, whether the committee has submitted its report to the Government;

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations of the said committee; and

(e) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI)

(a) & (b): A notification known as Coastal Regulation Zone Notification was issued in 1991 under Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Over the years a number of amendments have been made to this notification. In July, 2004, Government of India constituted a committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan to review and make recommendations with regard to implementation and amendments, if necessary, of Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991.

(c): Yes, Sir.

(d): The major recommendations of the Report include:-

i) Implementation of Integrated Coastal Zone Management Plan rather than an uniform regulatory approach.
ii) Development along the coastal stretches based on the vulnerability of the coast, taking into account the natural and manmade hazards.
iii) Inclusion of the ocean zone for regulation.
iv) Setting up of Institute for Coastal Zone Management to address the policy and legal issues.
v) Abatement of the pollution of coastal areas and marine waters in a time-bound manner.
vi) Identification and mapping of the coastal eco-sensitive areas such as mangroves, corals, turtle breeding areas.
vii) Development of coastal bioshield.

(e): The Government has accepted the report and have held discussions with the State Governments of Coastal States on 16.11.2007 and the stakeholders on 23.11.2007. Also pilot scale studies have been initiated through four Scientific Organizations for demarcation of vulnerability line along identified coastal stretches.